

## UNEP/ SETAC Life Cycle Initiative Corner

### International Life Cycle Panel: Decisions for 2003

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#### The International Life Cycle Panel

The International Life Cycle Panel (ILCP) is the highest authority – the board – of the UNEP/ SETAC Life Cycle Initiative. The ILCP decides on the work plan and carries out the supervision of all work elements. The ILCP meets twice per year, unless conditions and activities dictate additional meetings. The two founding organisations, UNEP and SETAC, appoint the first generation of ILCP members. Subsequent members will be appointed and approved by the ILCP itself. At present, the members are:

- Jacqueline Aloisi de Lardere (UNEP, Chair)
- Jim Fava (Five Winds International, SETAC representative, Vice-chair)
- Atsushi Inaba (National Japanese Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology – AIST, Vice-chair)
- Jane Bare (US EPA)
- Vinod Sharma (Indira Gandhi Institute, for Indian Society for Life Cycle Assessment)
- Ana Quiros (EcoGlobal, Costa Rica)
- Hans-Juergen Klueppel (Henkel, for ISO)
- Teresa Presas (Tetra Pak, for Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment – ACE)
- Daniel Normandin (CIRAIG, for Quebec)
- Christian Kornevall (ABB, link to World Business Council for Sustainable Development)
- Hubmaier Andrade (BVQI, for Brazilian Life Cycle Association)
- Tom McKone (U. of California School of Public Health & Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, link to Int. Society of Exposure Analysis)
- Brad Allenby (AT&T, link to International Society for Industrial Ecology)

In addition, a high-level representative from each a consumer organisation, the metal industry, and a governmental agency in Asia/ Pacific should join the group. The inaugural meeting of the ILCP, together with the launch of the initiative by UNEP's Executive Director Klaus Toepfer, took place at UNEP's 7th High Level Seminar on Cleaner Production in April 2002. Further information on the initiative can be found in Int J LCA 7 (4) 191–202 (2002).

#### International Life Cycle Panel meeting on 24 January 2003

On 24 January 2003, the International Life Cycle Panel met in Paris, in the form of a mixture of conference call and face-to-face meeting, to discuss the developments since the launch of the initiative in April 2002, and to set priorities for the work programme in 2003.

#### 1 User needs survey to be continued

To better match the user and life cycle community, UNEP was asked to go ahead with the on-going user needs survey in 2003. Main recommendations were:

- To finalise the present User Needs Survey;
- To continue a web-based inquiry of the user needs;
- To approach industry associations for feedback;
- To adapt the LCM web-based inquiry to the specific needs of developing countries, especially in respect to strategic actions of governments;
- To translate the report of the web-based enquiry into French, Spanish and, if possible, other languages.

#### 2 Workshops planned

The ILCP made the following decisions with regard to workshops:

- Workshop to be organised with US EPA on the 'Framework for Life Cycle Impact Assessment' in Hamburg, Germany, on 1 May 2003, back to back to SETAC Europe Annual Meeting (27 April to 1 May);
- Kick-off workshop for the Asia/Pacific regional programme on 'Capacity Building and Dissemination' in Bali in June, sponsored by AIST and back to back to ISO meeting (the event may include a continuation of the activities on Life Cycle Impact Assessment for the APEC region initiated at the Tsukuba workshop in November 2002);
- Workshop on 'Sustainable Product Innovation' concentrating on experiences sharing to be organised by ABB with the European Dantes project in Sweden in October 2003;
- Workshop on 'Life Inventory Database Quality and Third Party Review', tentatively scheduled for the 20–21 November 2003, and to be organised at the Research Centre Karlsruhe/ Germany.

#### 3 Outputs expected

The ILCP identified products that should be developed by the initiative by the end of the year based on the definition studies and the user needs survey results:

- Brochure 'Why use the life cycle approach',
- Life Cycle Management handbook, based on LCM definition study and related activities,
- Web-based collection of recommended life-cycle documents for those who want to enter the field of LCA and LCM,
- Web-based Life Cycle Inventory database overview, based on LCI definition study and to be further developed by a new survey particularly on LCI databases,
- Manual on Life Cycle Impact Assessment framework, based on LCIA definition study and outcome of the Hamburg workshop,
- Basic training material which probably will be an update of the UNEP publication 'Life cycle assessment: what is it and how to do it' from 1996.

#### 4 Marketing and communication strategy

Marketing strategy and material will be prepared to further promote the initiative. For instance, the initiative will establish a bimonthly bulletin called LC.net (Life Cycle Network), as well as communicate through SETAC Globe (newsletter), and the *International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment*, which will be an associated journal of the initiative. The initiative welcome further opportunities to disseminate information. The website will be further developed to allow for comments on draft documents.

#### 5 UNEP/ SETAC Partners

UNEP/ SETAC partners in the Life Cycle Initiative are AIST (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology), Japan, Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE), International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), Government of the Netherlands, Government of Switzerland and the CIRAIG/ Government of Quebec. For further information about the initiative please visit our website <http://www.unep.org/pc/sustain/lca/lcni.htm>.